

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00437 041658Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /009 W
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FOR AF/W - SMITH FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A (DECON 31 MAR 1978)
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, XA, MR
SUBJECT: UPCOMING AID/W MEETING ON SAHEL DEVELOPMENT

REF: PARIS 622

1. BOB KLEIN HAS BEEN SUMMONED TO HIGHPOWERED FOUR-DAY SESSION ON SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND US PARTICIPATION THEREIN VIA BILATERAL AID PROGRAMS AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE EFFORTS-- CILSS, CLUB DES AMIS, OMVS, FAO, ETC., ETC., ETC. HE IS LEAVING TOMORROW AND WILL BE ARRIVING IN DC ON SUNDAY. CDOS AND RDOS FROM SEVEN SAHEL COUNTRIES AND POSSIBLY EIGHT TO TEN AID/W AFRICA TYPES (SHEA AND COMPANY FROM AFR/SFWA PLUS PRESUMABLY AFR BUREAU STAFF) EXPECT TO CARRY OUT INTENSIVE EXAMINATION OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS, OF INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AND AMONG THESE SEVERAL PROGRAMS, AND TO CHART COURSE FOR FUTURE TO PARTICIPATION IN THESE SEVERAL ORGANISATIONAL APPROACHES TO SAHEL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

2. SINCE ISSUES INVOLVED EXTEND WELL BEYOND PARAMETERS
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OF DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, TACTICS AND TECHNIQUES INTO INTENSELY POLITICAL TERRAIN, I BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE DEEPLY AND ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THESE AID DELIBERATIONS. AS ILLUSTRATION OF POLITICAL DIMENSION, GIRM OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY MANIFESTED SHARP SENSITIVITY TO CILSS AND CLUB DES AMIS INTERVENTIONS IN MAURITANIA: SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINISTRY RURAL DEVELOPMENT

TOLD US HIS MINISTRY HAD ALREADY "HAD ITS BELLY FULL" OF CILSS REQUESTS AND INSTRUCTIONS; OTHERS HAVE POINTEDLY INQUIRED WHY CILSS AND CLUB COMMUNICATIONS ALWAYS SEEM TO COME TO GIRM THROUGH CDO MAURITANIA RATHER THAN DIRECTLY. IN ADDITION, KLEIN AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT AT PRESENT STAGE OF MAURITANIAN THINKING ABOUT DEVELOPMENT, THE BILATERAL APPROACH WHICH PERMITS AND EMPHASIZES THE VERY PERSONAL INTERACTION WHICH THIS SITUATION REQUIRES, DICTATES THAT THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS SHOULD BE GIVEN A SECOND PRIORITY, E.G. ONE THAT PERMITS THE GIRM TO ACT OUT ITS ROLE AS PARTICIPANT ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE BUT WITH SUBSTANCE BEING PREDOMINANTLY BILATERAL. SHOULD DAHDAH ACCEPT ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF OTTAWA MEETING OF THE CLUB, FOR EXAMPLE, AS INDICATED MIGHT HAPPEN REFTEL, THIS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE SCENARIO. IN OTHER WORDS, GIRM WOULD IN SUCH A ROLE MEET ITS INTERNATIONAL DESIRES TO ACT AS A PARTICIPANT, WHILE BILATERAL APPROACH WOULD PROVIDE REAL SUBSTANCE. I THEREFORE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT DAVE BOLEN OR YOU, DEPENDING ON LEVEL OF AID PARTICIPANTS, WILL ACCEPT AID INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IF ONE HAS BEEN EXTENDED OR URGENTLY PROMOTE ONE IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN INVITED, AND THEN PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN FULL FOUR DAYS OF THESE DELIBERATIONS.

HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

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